

# Drive Against Vietnamese At High Pitch in Cambodia

By HENRY KAMM APR 14 1970  
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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, April 13—An officially inspired campaign of hatred against Vietnamese has reached fever pitch throughout Cambodia. It has resulted in detentions, in disappearances and, in at least one known case, in mass killings that witnesses attributed to Cambodian soldiers.

In the course of the last week or 10 days the campaign against Vietnamese residents has seriously diminished the open sympathy with which many diplomats and other foreigners initially viewed the leadership that overthrew Prince Norodom Sihanouk on March 18.

None of the leading figures of the new regime have said a word, in their flood of statements and communiqués, that might inhibit those who take the official propaganda campaign as a declaration of an open season on Vietnamese.

A standard line of argument

appears to have developed among Government officials and private citizens in response to those who intercede on behalf of the frightened Vietnamese.

The Cambodians insist that foreigners simply do not understand the depth of Vietnamese Communist penetration among Vietnamese in Cambodia. They also stress the traditional enmity between Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples and say that outsiders fail to see the issue in its historical context.

It is often asserted that the Vietnamese have been equally cruel to Cambodians and would do the same in the Cambodians' position.

Vietnamese residents of Cambodia are estimate to number 400,000 in a population of seven million. How many remain at liberty is impossible to tell. In the border provinces, where North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces moved supplies and men

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and found sanctuary while Prince Sihanouk was in power—his successors have been trying to get rid of them—most of the Vietnamese are believed to be under detention.

The biggest concentration is in the capital, where they live in well-defined sections, particularly along the banks of the Mekong, Bassac and Tonle Sap rivers. Reliable informants reported today that in some sections one member of each family was seized yesterday, apparently as a hostage.

Many Vietnamese, including those who have acquired Cambodian citizenship at considerable expense, have reportedly been dismissed from their jobs and would find it difficult to get new ones. Mothers are keeping their children indoors, even beyond the 6 P.M.-to-6 A.M. curfew imposed last week on all Vietnamese. Women no longer wear their distinctive national costume, the ao dai.

In a detention center near a bridge over the Bassac, frightened Vietnamese told reporters that detainees have been disappearing. Perhaps, they said, the detainees are being taken for interrogation, but no one knows.

The episode of mass killing occurred in the village of Prasot, which later fell to Vietnamese Communist invaders. More than a hundred men, women and children were gunned down Thursday night in the courtyard of an agricultural cooperative where they were being detained.

Information of the killings has not been made public but they are not denied. The province Governor, Hem Keth Sana, when questioned yesterday in Svayrieng, the nearest town, said the deaths had been a result of a "murderous" attack in which the Vietcong used the detainees as a screen. But survivors told other Vietnamese at the scene that Cambodian troops alone were responsible.

### Reporters Were Expelled

The Prasot incident became known because the village lies on the principal Pnompenh-to-Saigon highway and was at the center of fighting between Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist forces last week. Consequently many reporters visited the region. If similar slayings occurred in centers off the principal highways, they might never have come to public attention.

Officials have categorically forbidden reporters to visit detention centers, and those who slip in have been expelled immediately—on at least one occasion at pistol point.

Some foreigners have suggested to influential Cambodians with whom they have contacts that Premier Lon Nol or the First Deputy Premier, Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak, men who are generally considered moderate, might find occasion to say in their public statements that many Vietnamese residents of Cambodia and naturalized Cambodians of Vietnamese stock have taken no part in Vietcong activities.

But the foreigners report that they have run into a wall of incomprehension.

### No Diplomatic Relations

Representatives of private international groups who have discussed the issue with Cambodian officials have acted in the awareness that there is no diplomatic representation of Vietnam in Cambodia. There are no diplomatic relations between South Vietnam and Cambodia and the embassies of North Vietnam and the Vietcong's so-called provisional revolutionary government have been put on caretaker status.

Diplomats and other observers have been struck by a belief, apparently sincerely held by responsible Cambodians, that the new leadership will always be in full control of the feelings unleashed by the hate campaign and that no violence will be done to the innocent. A high official of known liberalism said this to a visitor last Friday, after the mass slayings at Prasot. Presumably he did not know about them.

Some foreigners long resident in Cambodia believe that the leaders have made a calculated decision to exploit extreme national feeling to capture the support of their people.

### Sihanouk Accuses Successors

HONG KONG, April 13 (Reuters)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk has accused his successors of killing nearly 500 people in two weeks, the Hanoi radio reported today.

A Vietnamese-language broadcast quoted a message of condolence that the ousted Chief

<p>of State sent to the North Vietnamese Government yesterday on the killing of 100 Vietnamese in Cambodia. The Prince, who is in Peking, said that the Administration of Gen. Lon Nol had killed nearly 500 people, Cambodian and Vietnamese.</p>	<p>of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia.</p>	<p>mese in Cambodia. The South Vietnamese Government shows serious concern over repeated press reports—some of them must be grossly exaggerated—of South Vietnamese civilians being killed in Cambodia,” he added.</p>
<p><b>Saigon Delegation Planned</b> SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 13—A “people’s delegation” given instructions by the South Vietnamese Government has planned a trip to Phnompenh within the next week to investigate reports of mistreatment</p>	<p>Informed South Vietnamese sources said that the six-man delegation, made up of South Vietnamese who did not work for the Government, also planned informal meetings with officials of the new Cambodian regime in the hope of opening the way to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, severed in 1963. said the sole purpose of the delegation was to look into the well-being of South Vietna-</p>	<p>According to informed sources, however, the delegation was organized by the Foreign Ministry to help initiate ties. Officials would not say who was paying its expenses or how long it would remain in Cambodia.</p>